

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:
 - a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment;
 - b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment;
 - c) an electric motor ~~in the rear compartment~~ for driving the rotatable brush ;
 - ~~d) a belt connecting the motor and rotatable brush; and~~
 - e-d) a handle movable between an upright position and steering positions by rotation about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle, said handle being further rotatable around a second axis in said steering positions, ~~wherein~~ said second axis of rotation being is offset from the axial direction of the handle,
wherein the body further comprises a collar that prevents rotation of the handle around said second axis in the upright position.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an auxiliary brush extending from the forward compartment and driven by the motor.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the elongate rotatable brush and auxiliary brush are driven by the electric motor.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the auxiliary brush and the elongate rotatable brush are connected by a gear.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an intermediate compartment defined by a wall between the forward compartment and the intermediate compartment, a wall between the intermediate compartment and the rear compartment, and side walls.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the removable side wall includes a cover.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the intermediate compartment includes a tray that can be removed and emptied so as to discharge debris.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the intermediate compartment is a removable tray having at least one wall that forms a wall of said body.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the belt is enclosed within a tunnel that passes through the intermediate compartment.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris and the tunnel is arranged at a side remote from the removable side wall.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rear compartment is provided with ground-engaging wheels.

17. (Currently Amended) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

- a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment;
- b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment;
- c) an electric motor ~~in the rear compartment~~ for driving the rotatable brush ;
- d) ~~a belt connecting the motor and rotatable brush~~; and

e-d) an intermediate compartment comprising a removable tray, wherein at least one side of the removable tray forms a wall of said body.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a handle pivotable about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein in a sweeping position the handle can be further rotated about an axis offset from the axial direction of the handle.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an auxiliary brush extending from the forward compartment and driven by the electric motor.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the auxiliary brush and the elongate rotatable brush are connected by a gear.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the removable tray includes a cover.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the belt is enclosed within a tunnel that passes through the intermediate compartment.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the tunnel is arranged at a side remote from said side of the removable tray that forms a wall of said body.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the rear compartment is provided with ground-engaging wheels.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cleaning strip assembly pivotably mounted on an underside of the body.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the cleaning strip assembly comprises an elongate support member and a flexible strip extending radially from the support member.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the elongate support member extends along substantially the entire length of the body.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the cleaning strip assembly further comprises at least one tab oriented to contact the surface being cleaned during cleaning.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the at least one tab is oriented so that contact of the at least one tab with the surface being cleaned is capable of causing the cleaning strip assembly to pivot between a cleaning position and an elevated position.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the forward compartment further comprises an opening in a lower surface thereof, and wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the forward compartment further comprises an opening in a lower surface thereof, and wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the body further comprises a collar that prevents rotation of the handle about the axis offset from the axial direction of the handle in an upright position.

39. (New) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

- a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment;
- b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment, a front part of the forward compartment being movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush;
- c) an electric motor for driving the rotatable brush; and
- d) an intermediate compartment comprising a removable tray, wherein at least one wall of the intermediate compartment forms a wall of said body.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising a handle pivotable about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein in a sweeping position the handle can be further rotated about an axis offset from the axial direction of the handle.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the body further comprises a collar that prevents rotation of the handle about the axis offset from the axial direction of the handle in an upright position.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising an auxiliary brush extending from the forward compartment and driven by the electric motor.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the auxiliary brush and the elongate rotatable brush are connected by a gear.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising a cleaning strip assembly pivotably mounted on an underside of the body.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the cleaning strip assembly comprises an elongate support member and a flexible strip extending radially from the support member.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the elongate support member extends along substantially the entire length of the body.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the cleaning strip assembly further comprises at least one tab oriented to contact the surface being cleaned during cleaning.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the at least one tab is oriented so that contact of the at least one tab with the surface being cleaned is capable of causing the cleaning strip assembly to pivot between a cleaning position and an elevated position.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the forward compartment further comprises an opening in a lower surface thereof, and wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.

54. (New) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

- a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment, the forward compartment having an opening in a lower surface thereof;
- b) an elongate rotatable brush having bristles and extending across the forward compartment, wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that the bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased;
- c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush; and
- d) an intermediate compartment comprising a removable tray, wherein at least one wall of the intermediate compartment forms a wall of said body.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising a handle pivotable about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein in a sweeping position the handle can be further rotated about an axis offset from the axial direction of the handle.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein the body further comprises a collar that prevents rotation of the handle about the axis offset from the axial direction of the handle in an upright position.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising an auxiliary brush extending from the forward compartment and driven by the electric motor.

59. (New) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the auxiliary brush and the elongate rotatable brush are connected by a gear.

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

62. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

63. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising a cleaning strip assembly pivotably mounted on an underside of the body.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the cleaning strip assembly comprises an elongate support member and a flexible strip extending radially from the support member.

65. (New) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the elongate support member extends along substantially the entire length of the body.

66. (New) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the cleaning strip assembly further comprises at least one tab oriented to contact the surface being cleaned during cleaning.

67. (New) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the at least one tab is oriented so that contact of the at least one tab with the surface being cleaned is capable of causing the cleaning strip assembly to pivot between a cleaning position and an elevated position.

68. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.